



Oregon

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Major Areas of Work

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency with statutory authority to administer constitutionally dedicated funds for the purpose of protecting and enhancing Oregon's watersheds and native fish and wildlife habitats. The responsibilities of the agency include:

- Managing a grant program for watershed protection and enhancement;
- Assisting in the development and implementation of watershed-scale restoration efforts; and
- Coordinating and supporting local infrastructure throughout the state to achieve voluntary cooperative conservation outcomes.

OWEB works with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes on a government-to-government basis to address the watershed scale restoration efforts and through a grant program to fund watershed management, protection, and restoration projects.

OWEB is led by a 17-member policy oversight and decision-making board. Board members represent the public at large, federally recognized tribes, state natural resource agency boards and commissions, Oregon State University Extension Service, and five federal land management and natural resource agencies. The agency provides grants and services to citizen groups, organizations, and agencies working to restore healthy watersheds in Oregon. OWEB actions support the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, created in 1997. Funding comes from the Oregon Lottery as a result of citizen initiatives in 1998 and 2010, sales of salmon license plates since 1997, federal salmon recovery funds, and other sources.

Department Statement

In 2007, the OWEB Board unanimously adopted a Statement of Policy on State/Tribal Government-to-Government Relations. The policy, which is attached to this report, contains provisions for tribal relations protocols and tribal government participation in OWEB policy.

Summary of Programs and Process for Involving Tribes

OWEB involves tribes at all levels of the organization. The following sections describe the agency's involvement during 2016 with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribal governments and a neighboring Tribe that shares territory in Idaho and Oregon.

A. OWEB Board and Management

1. Board Membership. The Governor appoints a tribal representative as a voting member of the OWEB Board. The position currently is occupied by Eric Quaempts, Natural Resources Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. In September 2011, Mr. Quaempts was elected as a Board Co-Chair. In January 2013, he was re-elected as Co-Chair for a two-year term and his term recently ended in April 2016. Mr. Quaempts' term on the Board expires in January of 2017 at which point the Governor will be looking to appoint a new representative of an Oregon tribe to participate as a voting member on the OWEB Board.

The tribal position on the Board has been extremely valuable in helping to identify opportunities for collaboration and making the OWEB Board and staff aware of its responsibilities to involve and consider tribal interests. Mr. Quaempts has been an effective voice for tribal interests, and has improved awareness by OWEB staff of the significance of tribal issues associated with the grants and programs managed by the agency.

OWEB's Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Board Member Quaempts have been actively searching for an OWEB Board tribal representative replacement candidate in 2016. Outreach for a replacement included presenting at the 2015 Tribal Summit, sending surveys, and contacting key tribal natural resource professionals to request recommendations for a suitable candidate. Several potential candidates have been interviewed by the Executive Director and Board Member Quaempts in an effort to identify an interested and qualified candidate.

B. Grant Program

1. Small Grant Program. In OWEB's small grant program (OAR Chapter 695, Division 35); tribes are identified as an eligible member of "Small Grant Teams" in each of the 28 Small Grant areas around the state. In this role, tribes are members of local teams that award grants of up to \$10,000 for watershed restoration purposes. (Other members of the teams include watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.) In 2016, nine tribal agency representatives served on 19 of the 28 Small Grants Teams. In addition, OWEB has awarded three new small grants in 2016 for a total of 13 grants to tribal agencies through this program since 1999.

2. Regular Grant Program. OWEB solicits grant applications twice a year through the Regular Grant Program. During 2016, five grants were awarded to tribes as follows: Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, one grant of \$85,000; Nez Perce Tribe, two grants totaling \$69,908; and Burns Paiute Tribe, two grants totaling \$120,526. In our most recent grant cycle, for which awards have not yet been made, applications were submitted by tribal agencies. Since 2006, OWEB has awarded approximately \$4,300,000 in grants to tribal governments.

OWEB's Regional Program Representatives (RPRs) have regular contact with tribal staff that administer the grants which OWEB provides to tribes in Oregon. This interaction often begins with interested tribes prior to grant application submission and continues all the way through the completion of the grant. It is common for OWEB's RPRs to help tribes develop a project that has a high likelihood of being funded by suggesting key points to add to a grant application and by referring them to other experts in their region to obtain important information. Each RPR has a unique relationship with their tribal contacts that has been fostered over years of interaction and professional courtesy.

3. Regular Grant Program – Regional Review Teams. Applications received through OWEB's Regular Grant Program are reviewed by one of six Regional Review Teams, comprising state, federal, and tribal natural resource professionals. Currently, six tribal agency representatives participate on agency Regional Review Teams which includes representatives from the Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Klamath Tribes, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.

4. Land Acquisition Grant Program. OWEB's land acquisition grant program provides funding for projects that acquire an interest in land from a willing seller for the purpose of addressing the conservation needs of priority habitat and species. OWEB provides notification to tribes after an acquisition application is received. In 2016, OWEB provided information on five proposed acquisition projects to tribal natural resource agency directors. If a tribe expresses interest in a project, OWEB staff will complete a tribal consultation.

In 2015, the OWEB Board approved funding to the McKenzie River Trust to acquire a 125-acre forested property upstream of Tahkenitch Lake in Douglas County. McKenzie River Trust acquired the property in 2016 and immediately transferred it to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. The tribe will manage the property for the protection of its natural resources in perpetuity.

5. Water Acquisition Grant Program. OWEB's water acquisition grant program provides funding for programs or projects that acquire an interest or interests in water from a willing seller for the purpose of increasing instream flow. OWEB provides notification to tribes after a water acquisition grant application is received. The 2016 OWEB Water Acquisition Grant offering, issued in November

2016, implements a coordinated funder-based framework in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The intent of this approach is to achieve a more streamlined process to solicit, screen, and make decisions about water acquisition applications.

In 2016, the Board continued support of the Klamath water leasing program to complete work under the Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement to which the Klamath Tribes are a signatory.

6. Focused Investment Partnership Program. In 2016, the OWEB Board made the initial awards in the newly created Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program. The FIP Program offers Implementation and Capacity-Building funding. Implementation funding provides opportunities for tribes and others to work collaboratively in partnerships on ambitious, long-term and landscape-scale programmatic restoration initiatives aimed at creating measurable outcomes within priority areas that were identified by the OWEB Board. Two of the six Implementation FIPs that were funded by the OWEB Board include tribes in their core partnerships, including the Burns Paiute Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Capacity-Building FIP funding allows partnerships to produce or enhance a Strategic Action Plan, and in doing so to cultivate their partnership and develop an approach to programmatic restoration actions in their focused geography. Six of the eight Capacity-Building FIPs that the Board recently awarded include tribes as core partners. Those tribes include the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon; Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Tribes; Nez Perce Tribe; and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. In addition, the Grande Ronde and the Deschutes River FIPs have tribal representatives on the technical review team from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, respectively.

The Klamath Tribes are a core member of OWEB's Upper Klamath Special Investment Partnership, or SIP. The SIP was a predecessor to the FIP program. Collectively, the core partners of the Upper Klamath SIP have a strong foundation working on restoration issues in the Klamath basin that will allow for significant progress related to habitat restoration and conservation, water use management, integrated strategic planning, and monitoring. OWEB staff worked with the Klamath Tribes and other core members of the Upper Klamath SIP to develop a summary document highlighting the accomplishments achieved with OWEB's investment. The [UKSIP Accomplishments Report](#) was presented to the OWEB Board at their meeting in April 2016. This presentation included Megan Skinner of the Klamath Tribes as she shared with the Board lessons learned from a tribal perspective and next steps for continued restoration efforts in the Upper Klamath Basin.

6. Other Grant Program Involvements. The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon is a key participant in the Upper Middle Fork John

Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed and is receiving additional funding for the current federal fiscal year and state biennium for their work.

OWEB staff participate on the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation's John Day restoration review team.

OWEB staff also participate in the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). The WWMP is the result of the State's 2010 agreement with Bonneville Power Administration for mitigation for the loss of fish and wildlife habitat due to the construction of 13 dams and reservoirs on major tributaries to the Willamette River from 1946-1964. Members from Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community, and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians participate in the WWMP as they all have historic hunting, fishing, and trading areas in the Basin.

- C. Grant Applicants.** OWEB grants are available to a broad range of entities, including tribes. Tribes have no unique standing in the grant program, but are equal to any other applicant [ORS 541.375(1)].

In addition to eligibility on their own, tribes are often members of local watershed councils. Oregon statutes describing watershed councils, ORS 541.388, specifically identifies "federally recognized Indian Tribes" as potential members of local watershed councils.

Promotion of Communication between OWEB and Tribes

In 2015, OWEB initiated the first phase of a tribal outreach plan aimed at increasing the involvement of tribes in our grant programs and in our agency's policy development. Working closely with Board Co-Chair Eric Quaempts, OWEB developed a brief survey that was sent to natural resource tribal key contacts, our current and past tribal government grantees, and the tribal representatives which sit on our review teams. This outreach effort continued into 2016 and included the interviewing of tribal employees to select a new suitable tribal representative to OWEB's Board to be appointed by the Governor, staff presentations to the Board on tribal involvement in our programs, and staff training on tribal sovereignty. After the compilation of 2015's survey results, OWEB is working on additional training opportunities for tribal natural resources staff on key areas of OWEB policies and programs. For example, OWEB staff have followed up with Margaret Corvi, the Natural Resources Department Director of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Tribes to discuss how they might pursue OWEB funding opportunities and invited them to a recent training on OWEB's new on-line grant applications.

OWEB staff have been active in communicating with tribes in 2016 in a number of ways. Staff attended and presented on the topic of OWEB funding opportunities at the West Coast Salmon Summit in Canyonville on September 26-29 hosted by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. OWEB also coordinated a field tour of restoration projects around the state for administrators and staff from National Headquarters and the regional office of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the federal Office of Management and Budget in September. As part of the tour, OWEB highlighted a large-scale restoration project that was implemented by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Pendleton.

This tour highlighted the exemplary efforts by the tribes in Oregon to restore watersheds to support threatened salmon and steelhead.

OWEB staff coordinated with tribal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds recipients in Oregon to advance potential projects to highlight in a report to Congress. Both of these coordination efforts ensured that Tribes receive due recognition for their efforts to restore salmon and steelhead in the Pacific Northwest.

In November, OWEB staff presented to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services Natural Resources Workgroup to share with them the recent developments related to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

In December, OWEB's Executive Director, Tribal Liaison, and Board member Quaempts will attend the Annual Tribal Summit in Lincoln City to engage Tribal representatives and listen to them to better understand the issues that are important to them. In conformance with OWEB's Tribal Policy, OWEB designates a staff person to operate as a Tribal Liaison for the agency. The Tribal Liaison is responsible for ensuring that OWEB's programs and policy development adheres to our Tribal Policy. This includes coordinating program and policy notices to tribal natural resource key contacts and providing training to staff as appropriate.

Ken Fetcho, OWEB's Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator, has replaced Juniper Davis as OWEB's Tribal Liaison. He has initiated planning for cultural resources protection training for OWEB's grantees to be held in May 2017 in Pendleton. He is actively working with OWEB staff to establish a process to jointly report how OWEB and Tribes spend funding on restoration actions using NOAA's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds. As appropriate, OWEB's Tribal Liaison meets internally with management staff to provide updates on government-to-government activities, and communicates about tribal interests and issues at all-staff meetings and retreats. Mr. Fetcho will present at OWEB's all-staff retreat on November 29, 2016, to update agency personnel on the outreach activities discussed above.